

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR YVONNE B. BURKE

September 26, 2006

**AMENDMENT TO ITEMS 18 and 48**

The Board of Supervisors has agreed that families stranded on Skid Row must be helped to change their circumstance for the benefit of the children. A Skid Row Team, consisting of DCFS, DPSS, DMH and DPH has been working diligently to assess families in need and provide them services for which they are eligible. The Board approved a \$2 Million contract with Beyond Shelter to find housing and navigate services for these vulnerable families. DCFS now assesses every child in the Row, to determine if they are suffering the ravages of abuse and neglect, and that must continue. When children are found to be in high risk of or immediate danger, a case is opened on the family, which is the appropriate role for DCFS to play.

However, it is beyond DCFS's legal mandate and distracts from their work with abused and neglected children, to oversee non-child protection cases, identified through Skid Row Assessments. This is a direct reversal of the DCFS established direction yielding improvements in prevention and permanency. If indeed this is what the Board as a whole wants to authorize, despite the obvious legal and ethical dilemma posed, the Board of Supervisors as a whole should confer and make that decision.

-M-O-R-E-

MOTION

MOLINA	_____
BURKE	_____
YAROSLAVSKY	_____
KNABE	_____
ANTONOVICH	_____

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To facilitate that discussion, proposed changes in the DCFS role and authority on Skid Row should be deferred for full vetting by County Counsel and the Chief Administrative Office, including the budgetary impact of increased detentions on the Title IV-E waiver.

**I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:**

1) Continue those portions of Items 18 and 48, related to the eight CSA I positions to be funded in DCFS on the supplemental budget funded through the \$3.7M allocation for Housing Assistance for Skid Row Families, served under County Program 4.A, until the Board of Supervisors has approved the new Skid Row Assessment Protocol which mandates an expansion of DCFS purview, to include "case management" services for non child protection cases, until the Board of Supervisors reviews and approves the concept.

2) The issue should be considered in a County-wide context for places other than Skid Row where children and families are at risk because of crime or drug infestation, and in light of the role of system navigation, currently funded through Department of Mental Health.

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YBB:ML:nra (Amendment to Items 18 and 48 092606)